

Football Adds Three To 2023 Signing Class

GREENVILLE, N.C. – East Carolina Head Football Coach Mike Houston announced that three student-athletes (Daylyn Diston, Jimarion McCrimon and Rico Watkins) have each signed a national letter-of-intent with the Pirates pushing the final 2023 class to 27 members.

Daylyn Diston, CB, 6-0, 175, Fr., Lake Butler, Fla. (Union County HS)

Two-way player and three-year varsity member under head coach Andrew Thomas ... Helped Union County to a three-year 30-8 composite record which included a Class 1A semifinal appearance in the state playoffs in 2021 ... Appeared in 27 games over three-year career as a safety and wide receiver/running back ... Tallied 62 stops (20 solo) with five TFLs and one sack ... Intercepted nine career passes (275 return yards) with 11 pass breakups ... Returned three picks for touchdowns (two in 2021) ... Caused a pair of fumbles and recovered one fumble ... Rushed 64 times for 456 yards (7.1 ypr) with six scores and one 100-plus yard game ... Hauled down 59 passes for 987 yards (16.7 ypc) with 10 touchdowns ... In all, scored 19 career touchdowns (3 INTs, 10 rec, 6 rush) for 114 points (4.2 ppg) ... Closed out prep career earning Small School First-Team All-Area honors in the secondary from *Mainstreet Daily News*, while garnering honorable mention accolades as a wide receiver ... Also collected All-First Coast honors from the *Times-Union* after helping the Tigers to an 8-3 record ... Defensively he booked 25 tackles (19 solo) and tallied 4.0 TFLs with one sack ... Picked off three passes for 133 yards (44.3 yards per INT) to go along with five pass breakups, a forced fumble, fumble recovery and one sack ... Rushed 24 times for 57 yards (2.4 ypr), while hauling down 43 passes for 605 yards and four touchdowns ... As a junior was a two-way player that helped Lake Butler to a 13-1 overall record and made a deep run in Florida's 1A playoffs ... Caught 16 passes for 382 yards and six touchdowns ... Also rushed 36 times for 378 yards and five scores ... Defensively, racked up 36 tackles (22 solo) and picked off six passes (142 yards) while being credited with six pass breakups ... Returned two interceptions (51 and 85 yards) for touchdowns against Hilliard in a 52-14 regional semifinal win ... Also ran six times for 54 yards versus Hilliard ... Rushed for 111 yards on six carries (18.5 ypr) with a pair of scores in a 45-12 win over Williston, while catching one pass for a 45-yard touchdown ... For his performance against Williston, he was named the *Gainesville Sun's* Freak of the Week ... Named All-Area Small School Player-of-the-Year by *The Gainesville Sun* ... Also earned Florida Class 1A First-Team All-State honors from *FloridaHSFootball.com* ... Appeared in two games as a sophomore rushing four times for 21 yards and a touchdown ... Credited with one tackle (solo) on defense ... Three-star prospect according to *247Sports Composite* ... Chose East Carolina over Akron, FIU, Florida Atlantic, Navy, Temple, Troy, Western Kentucky and others.

Jimarion McCrimon, OT, 6-5, 270, Fr., Kissimmee, Fla. (Osceola HS)

Verbally committed to East Carolina on Jan. 27, 2023 ... Three-sport athlete at Osceola (football, basketball, track) ... Four-year varsity player who helped the Cowboys to a 39-13 composite record ... Played two seasons under head coach Eric Pinellas (2021-22) ... As a senior he earned All-Area First-Team honors from the *Orlando Sentinel* ... First-Team All-Orange Belt Conference selection ... His unit tallied 4,308 yards of total offense (1,957 pass, 2,351 rush) for an average of 429.4 yards per game and scored 47 touchdowns ... Provided running lanes for nine 100-yard rushing efforts ... During junior campaign he helped the Cowboys register 4,433 yards of total offense (316.6 pg) with 61 scores ... Opened lanes for three 100-plus yard rushing games while the running back group averaged 6.8 yards per carry ... As a sophomore the offensive unit produced 3,610 yards of total

offense (359.8 pg) with 35 touchdowns and had amassed 100 yards or more in a game rushing four times ...Opened prep career helping the Cowboys to a 10-2 record where they averaged 447.6 yards of offense per game ...The unit scored 59 touchdowns, had five 100-plus rushing efforts and averaged 8.0 yards per carry ...On the hardwood, has played 12 games over the last two seasons averaging 4.4 points and 3.6 points per game ...Two-time MaxPreps Player-of-the-Game selection (Oct. 29, 2021 and Oct. 13, 2022) ...Chose East Carolina over Appalachian State, Coastal Carolina, Georgia State, Purdue, South Florida, Western Carolina, Western Kentucky and others.

Rico Watkins, CB, 5-11, 160, Fr., Tallahassee, Fla. (James Rickards HS)
Two-sport athlete (football, track) ...Earned three letters on the gridiron under head coach Quintin Lewis primarily in the secondary and as a wide receiver ...Helped the Raiders to 20 wins over three seasons including a 9-3 mark as a sophomore ...For his career, he caught 91 passes for 1,623 yards (17.8 ypc) with 13 touchdowns ...Added 387 yards on the ground (20 carries) with three additional scores ...Earned First-Team All-Big Bend accolades as an defensive and offensive player following his senior season ...Defensively he booked 32 stops (22 solo) with a sack ...Picked off seven passes and was credited with 10 pass breakups ...Offensively he hauled in 46 passes for 765 yards (16.6 ypc) with three touchdowns ...Tallied a pair of 100-plus yard receiving games (134 vs. Edison, 131 vs. Wakulla) ...Rushed 28 times for 343 yards (12.3 ypr) with three more scores ...Also completed 6 of 10 passes for 55 yards ...Named MaxPreps Player-of-the-Game on Oct. 14 versus Lincoln after completing 2 of 3 passes for 24 yards, while rushing nine times for 28 yards and catching five passes for 50 yards ...Rushed for a career-best 106 yards on 12 carries with a touchdown in a 38-25 win against Edison ...During junior season he earned *Tallahassee Democrat* All-Big Bend Second-Team honors after hauling down 23 passes for 563 yards and seven touchdowns ...Opened varsity career as a wide receiver where he caught 22 balls for 227 yards (10.3 ypc) and scored three times ...Member of the 4x100 relay team as a sophomore that placed sixth at Florida's 3A state track meet ...Three-star prospect according to *247Sports Composite, ESPN, On3* and *Rivals* ...Chose East Carolina over Arkansas, Buffalo, Charlotte, Costal Carolina, Massachusetts, Mississippi State, Nebraska, Oregon, Troy, South Florida, Vanderbilt and others.

2023 National Signing Day

Pirate Nation - ECUPirates.com will once again be your one-stop shop for all things relating to ECU's 2023 National Signing Day (**Wednesday, Dec. 21**). ECU's Signing Day Central will house all biographical information you need on each new signee. To use the interactive map below, when a state is highlighted in purple, that indicates an ECU signee's home state. Simply click the state to see the number of future Pirates from that state.

Note: This map will be updated at the same time we update the chart and bios below.

Pirate fans can also follow live via ECU's social media platforms: **Twitter** ([ECUPiratesFB](#), [ECUAthletics](#)), **Instagram** ([ECUPiratesFB](#), [ECUAthletics](#)) and **Facebook** ([ECUFootball](#), [ECUAthletics](#)), while also using the hashtag [#PurpleHa23](#).

Date	Signee	Pos.	Ht./ Wt.	Class	Hometown	Previous School	Twitter
Dec. 21	Zion Agnew	WR	5-11/ 170	Fr.	Columbia, S.C.	Ridge View HS	@Ziongoesd1
Dec. 21	Javious Bond *	RB	5-11/ 185	Fr.	Gray, Ga.	Jones County HS	@BondJavious
Dec. 21	Nate Branch	WR	5-10/ 172	Fr.	Hopkins, S.C.	Lower Richland HS	@BRANCHNATE3
Dec. 21	Javion Clark	DB	6-2/ 175	Fr.	Macon, Ga.	Jones County HS	@clark_javion
Dec. 21	Julien Davis	LB	6-2/ 220	Fr.	McDonough, Ga.	Union Grove HS	@JulienDavis23
Dec. 21	Kieran Davis	DE	6-2/ 240	Fr.	Roswell, Ga.	Blessed Trinity Catholic HS	@KieranDavis
Dec. 21	Kameron Durant *	OL	6-4/ 315	Fr.	Summerville, S.C.	Cane Bay HS	@KameronDurant
Dec. 21	Antonio Ferguson	TE	6-4/ 235	Fr.	Apopka, Fla.	Apopka HS	@dareal_Ferguson
Dec. 21	Demoris Jenkins	DE	6-5/ 220	Fr.	Huntersville, N.C.	North Mecklenburg HS	@JenkinsDemoris
Dec. 21	Raheim Jeter *	QB	6-3/ 215	Fr.	Spartanburg, S.C.	Spartanburg HS	@RaheimJ1
Dec. 21	Dwight Johnson Jr.	LB	6-1/ 210	Fr.	Hampton, Ga.	Dutchtown HS	@djohnson232
Dec. 21	Malik Leverett	WR	6-3/ 200	Fr.	Evans, Ga.	Greenbrier HS	@MLeverttt

Dec. 21	Kamaurri McKinley	DB	6-0/ 174	Fr.	Lakeland, Fla.	Lakeland HS	@KamaurriMcKinley
Dec. 21	Greg Turner	SAF	6-2/ 195	Fr.	Ellenwood, Ga.	Cedar Grove HS	@GregoryTurner
Dec. 21	Bryce Weaver	OL	6-3/ 315	Fr.	Greenville, N.C.	DH Conley HS	@bryceweaver70

*projected early enrollee (January, 2023)

Zion

Agnew

WR \\\ 5-11 \\\ 170 \\\ Fr. \\\ Columbia, S.C. (Ridge View HS)

Verbally committed to East Carolina on June 25th, 2022 ... **High School:** Tabbed to the 2022 SCFCA All-State Team ... Selected to play in the 2022 Shrine Bowl of the Carolinas ... Posted 1,030 receiving yards on 65 catches and notched 12 touchdowns as a junior in helping Ridge View to the quarterfinals of the South Carolina AAAA state playoffs ... Ranked eighth in receiving yards in the state of South Carolina in 2021 ... Accumulated more than 100 yards receiving in five of the 10 games in which he played his junior season, highlighted by an 11-catch, 172-yard, two-touchdown effort in a 47-41 second-round state AAAA playoff win against Hillcrest ... Three-star prospect according to 247Sports Composite, ESPN and on3 ... Chose East Carolina over offers from Charlotte, James Madison and others ... Also ran track for Ridge View, specializing in the sprints and relay events.

Javious

Bond

RB \\\ 5-11 \\\ 185 \\\ Fr. \\\ Gray, Ga. (Jones County HS)

Will officially enroll early at ECU (January, 2023) and is expected to participate with the Pirates in spring drills ... **High School:** Four-sport athlete (football, basketball, baseball and track) at Jones County HS under head coach Mike Chastain ... Two-way standout (running back/safety) for the Greyhounds that played 44 career games ... Offensively, rushed 281 times for 1,904 yards and 23 touchdowns ... Averaged 6.8 yards per carry and 43.3 yards per game ... Rushed for over 100 yards in a game six times in his career ... Caught 72 passes out of the backfield for 758 yards (10.5 ypc) with 10 additional scores ... Added 263 kickoff return and 107 punt return yards ... In all, tallied 3,052 all-purpose yards in his prep career ... Defensively, booked 244 stops (142 solo) ... Picked off five passes for 20 return yards ... Credited with 18 pass breakups to go along with four fumble recoveries (43 yards) and one forced fumble ... Also credited with one blocked punt and field goal ... Preseason MaxPreps Georgia All-State Team selection ... Played in six games during senior campaign rushing for 446 yards on 82 carries and scoring five times ... Rushed for a season-best 149 yards with a pair of TDs in a 35-14 win over Dacula ... In a 30-0 shutout of Union Grove, rushed 13 times for 44 yards with a season-best three touchdowns ... Hauled in 14 passes for 168 yards and three more scores ... Tallied 238 or more all-purpose yards twice ... Booked 14 stops (10 solo) with a quarterback hurry ... Additionally,

picked off one pass, had a PBU, fumble recovery, forced fumble and a blocked punt ...As a junior helped Jones County to a 10-3 overall record and a perfect 7-0 mark in league play ...Earned Georgia High School Football Daily Honorable Mention All-State honors and 4-AAAA Region Athlete of the Year accolades following junior season where he rushed for nearly 950 yards (943) on 147 carries with 14 scores ..Ran for 100-plus yards in a contest three times including a personal-best 207 and four TDs in a 66-42 victory over Eastside in the state playoff quarterfinals ...Scored at least one ground TD in eight of 12 games (multiple four times) ...Added 555 receiving yards on 49 grabs (11.3 ypc) ...Scored six TDs with three in a 69-26 win over Woodland ...Ended the season with 1,677 all-purpose yards (943 rush, 555 receiving, 163 kickoff, 16 punt return) ...Booked 69 tackles (36 solo) with one TFL ...During sophomore campaign, he ran for 515 yards on 52 carries with four TDs ...Member of Greyhounds squad that posted a 10-4 overall ledger (7-0 in conference) ...Tallied a pair of 100-plus rushing games ...Caught nine passed for 35 yards with another score ...Added 81 yards in punt returns and 18 on an interception against Griffin HS ..In all, was credited with 649 all-purpose yards ...Recorded 77 tackles (46 solo) ...Amassed 10 or more stops in a game three times with a season-high 14 against Wayne County ...Picked off a pair of passes and credited with nine pass breakups ...Opened prep career playing primarily on defense earning 2019 Georgia All-State Honorable Mention honors ...Appeared in 12 contests booking 84 stops (50 solo) ...Credited with 10-plus tackles on two occasions ...Added a pair of TFLs, two INTs, five pass breakups and forced a pair of fumbles ...Member of a team that posted an 12-2 record and a 6-1 mark in league play ...Nine-time *MaxPreps* Player of the Game selection during his high school career ...Three-star prospect by *247Sports Composite, ESPN and Rivals* ...Chose East Carolina over offers from Boston College, Duke, Houston, Kansas State, Memphis, Minnesota, Ole Miss, Pittsburgh, Tulane, Utah, Virginia and others ...**Personal:** Son of Lisa Bond.

Nate	Branch
WR \\\ 5-10 \\\ 172 \\\ Fr. \\\ Hopkins,	S.C. (Lower Richland HS)
<i>Verbally committed to East Carolina on Sept. 18th, 2022 ...High School:</i> The last two seasons with Lower Richland, has tallied 57 receptions for 1,406 yards and 14 touchdowns ...Additionally had one score rushing, two interceptions, one punt return and one kickoff return ...As a senior, caught 26 passes for 51 yards and four scores in 10 games ...Rushed four times for 22 yards and a touchdown ...Hauled in three or more passes in a game six times with a season-high six against Rock Hill ...Posted lone 100-yard receiving game vs. Rock Hill (150) with a pair of scores ...In all tallied 709 all-purpose yards (551 receiving, 87 kickoff return, 22 rushing and 49 on interceptions) ...Amassed 215 all-purpose yards against Keenan with three scores including a 63-yard reception and a 62-yard punt return ...Defensively was credited with 23 stops (all solo) and one TFL ...Picked off lone pass against Phillip Simmons returning it 49 yards for a	

touchdown ...Credited with a tackle for loss against Rock Hill ...Earned 3A South Carolina Football Coaches Association (SCFCA) 3A All-State honors for second consecutive year ...Named South Carolina 3A Lower State Offensive Player of the Year ...Participated in the Touchstone Energy Bowl in Myrtle Beach, S.C. catching a five-yard TD pass in the first quarter ...In all, hauled in four passed for 41 yards ...Named SCFCA 3A All-State as a junior after catching 31 passes for 855 yards and 10 touchdowns ...Caught multiple passes in a contest six times with a season-best six against Seneca ...Posted three 100-plus yard receiving games (152/Keenan, 129/Seneca, 124/Clinton) ...Caught multiple TD passes against Keenan and Clinton ...As a sophomore, he earned all-region honors ...Placed sixth at the state 3A 100-meter finals as a junior and was fourth as a sophomore ...Holds the fourth-best times in the 100 (10.70) and 200 (22.11) dashes in Lower Richland school history ...member of the top 4x200 relay squad and has the 10th-best long jump (21-0.25) in program history ...Three-star prospect according to *247Sports Composite*, *ESPN* and *Rivals* ...Chose East Carolina over offers from Kentucky, North Carolina, Virginia Tech and others.

Javion Clark
DB \\\\ 6-2 \\\\ 175 \\\\ Fr. \\\\ Macon, Ga. (Jones County HS)
High School: Returned an interception 50 yards against Dutchtown in a 24-7 Jones County victory in 2022 ...Helped Jones County to a 10-3 record and a 7-0 region mark as a junior ... Collected 85 tackles, eight pass breakups and one interception over the course of his sophomore season ... Also received offers from Georgia Tech, Akron, Boston College, Georgia Southern, Georgia State, Middle Tennessee State, Temple, Toledo and UAB ...Prep teammate of 2022 East Carolina signee Javious Bond.

Julien Davis
LB \\\\ 6-2 \\\\ 220 \\\\ Fr. \\\\ McDonough, Ga. (Union Grove HS)
Verbally committed to East Carolina on June 25th, 2022 ...**High School:** Three-sport athlete at Union Grove (football, basketball and track and field) ...Played football under head coach Casey Smith. ... Preseason Georgia All-State selection heading into senior year ...Early in 2022, he tallied 42 tackles through four games ...Piled up 409 yards and three touchdowns on 68 rushes ...Against Jackson, he ran for 156 yards and a score on 18 carries ...Following junior season, he was named to the Georgia High School Association's First Team All-Region 4-5A and received honorable mention all-state honors from *Georgia Recruit* ...Appeared in 20 games on the hardwood where he averaged 4.4 points and 3.6 rebounds per contest ...Reached double figures twice (11 vs. McDonough and 10 vs. Locust Grove) ...Pulled down a season-best eight rebounds against McDonough ... As a sophomore started at middle linebacker before transitioning into a dual role as a junior at running back ...Opened prep career splitting time between the varsity and junior varsity squads ...Recorded nine

tackles in varsity debut against Strong Rock Christian Academy ..In five varsity contests he booked 27 total tackles (eight solo) ... Three-star prospect by *247Sports Composite* and *ESPN*... Chose East Carolina over offers from Charlotte, Connecticut, Indiana, Memphis, South Florida, Tennessee and others.

Kieran

Davis

DE \\ 6-2 \\ 240 \\ Fr. \\ **Roswell, Ga. (Blessed Trinity Catholic HS)**
Verbally committed to East Carolina on June 28th, 2022 ...**High School:** Selected to the 2022 all-region first team ... Collected 1,039 rushing yards and 12 touchdowns on 156 carries as a senior while averaging 103.9 yards per game and 6.7 yards per rush ... Notched 1,540 all-purpose yards his final prep season ... Tallied 77 total tackles, 19 tackles for loss and nine sacks as a junior ... Earned 2021 All-Region 7 AAAA Second Team honors ... Began his prep career at St. Edmund High School in Eunice, La., garnering *MaxPreps* Freshman All-America laurels, State All-Star Honorable Mention recognition and all-district accolades ... Played mostly at running back, racking up 781 yards and eight touchdowns on 120 carries in eight games ... Three-star prospect according to *247Sports Composite* and *on3* ... Chose East Carolina over offers from Air Force, Charlotte, Coastal Carolina, Georgia Southern, Georgia State, Miami (OH), Navy and Tulane ... Also starred on the track and basketball teams, qualifying for the state meet in the 110m hurdles as a junior ... **Personal:** Son of Charles Grant who was a first-round selection of the New Orleans Saints in the 2022 NFL Draft and won a Super Bowl with the franchise.

Kameron

Durant

OL \\ 6-4 \\ 315 \\ Fr. \\ **Summerville, S.C. (Cane Bay HS)**
Verbally committed to East Carolina on June 21st, 2022 ... Will officially enroll early at ECU (January, 2023) and is expected to participate with the Pirates in spring drills ...**High School:** Three-year varsity starter under head coach Jeff Bleamer ... Two-sport athlete (football, track and field) ... Participated in the 75th Annual North-South All-Star Game at Doug Shaw Memorial Stadium ... Listed as the 45th-best Rising Senior Prospect in South Carolina heading into senior season ... Helped the Cobras to an 8-3 record in 2022 ... Paved the way for an offensive unit that rushed for 1,659 yards and averaged 150.8 yards per game on the ground and 17 scores ... Moved to offensive guard as a junior helping the Cobras compile a 9-3 record falling during the second round of the playoffs ... Blocked for offensive unit that produced 1,996 total yards (409 pass, 1,587 rush) with 25 touchdowns ... Earned Second-Team All-Low County honors from the *Charleston Post & Courier* ... Named to the 2021 South Carolina Academic All-America Team ... As member of the track team, threw the shot put 41-10 and the discus 110-1 ... Set personal-best in shot put with a mark of 43-0 ... Earned starting spot as an offensive tackle during sophomore campaign ... Member of

an offensive line unit that helped the Cobras tally 1,888 yards of total offense (251 pass, 1,637 rush) and 20 touchdowns ...Three-star prospect by *247Sports Composite*...Listed as the 36th-best prospect in South Carolina by *247Sports*.

Antonio

TE \\\ 6-4 \\\ 235 \\\ Fr. \\\ Apopka, Fla. (Apopka HS)

Verbally committed to East Carolina on July 2nd, 2022 ...**High School:** Helped Apopka to a pair of state championship game appearances (2021-22) ...Named Sonic Prep Player of the Week (Dec. 1, 2022) ...Member of an 11-4 squad in 2022 that earned second consecutive state title appearance falling to Columbus in overtime ...Offensively, the Blue Darters amassed 3,203 yards of total offense (596 pass, 2,607 rush) with 38 total offensive touchdowns ...Helped block for five 100-yard rushing performances as a member of tight ends group ...Appeared in 14 games during junior campaign ...Caught three passes for 29 yards while booking four tackles as a member of the secondary unit ...Helped the Blue Darters 12-3 campaign that ended as the Class 4M State runner-up ...As a sophomore caught two passes for 37 yards ...Three-star prospect by *247Sports Composite* ...Chose East Carolina over offers from Appalachian State, South Florida, Tulane and others.

Demoris

DE \\\ 6-5 \\\ 220 \\\ Fr. \\\ Huntersville, N.C. (North Mecklenburg HS)

Verbally committed to East Carolina on June 30th, 2022 ...**High School:** Earned 2022 All-State Honorable Mention honors from N.C. Sportswriters ...Selected to the play in the 2022 Shrine Bowl of the Carolinas ...Tallied 16 tackles and two sacks as a junior ...Helped North Mecklenburg to a 6-4 record and North Carolina 4A first-round playoff appearance ...Three-star prospect according to *247Sports Composite* and *on3* ...Chose East Carolina over offers from Appalachian State, Georgia State, Liberty, Middle Tennessee State and Ohio ...Also starred on the North Mecklenburg basketball squad, leading the Vikings to a 27-5 record and state semifinal appearance his junior season.

Raheim

QB \\\ 6-3 \\\ 215 \\\ Fr. \\\ Spartanburg, S.C. (Spartanburg HS)

Verbally committed to East Carolina on October 22nd, 2022 ...**Will officially enroll early at ECU (January, 2023) and is expected to participate with the Pirates in spring drills** ...**High School:** Guided the Vikings to an 8-5 overall record which included a spot in the 5A state playoffs (quarterfinal round) his senior year ...Completed 165 of 252 passes for 2,344 yards and 20 ariel scores ...Passed for 164 or more yards 10 times and 200-plus on four occasions which included a season-high 305 against Riverside ...Threw at least one TD pass in nine contests (multiple eight times) ...Added 378 ground yards on 82 carries with three more scores ...Finished senior season with 2,722 all-purpose yards ...Named South Carolina Football Coaches Association (SCFCA) 5A All-State ...

Ferguson

Fla. (Apopka HS)

Jenkins

DE \\\ 6-5 \\\ 220 \\\ Fr. \\\ Huntersville, N.C. (North Mecklenburg HS)

Verbally committed to East Carolina on June 30th, 2022 ...**High School:**

Earned 2022 All-State Honorable Mention honors from N.C. Sportswriters ...Selected to the play in the 2022 Shrine Bowl of the Carolinas ...Tallied 16 tackles and two sacks as a junior ...Helped North Mecklenburg to a 6-4 record and North Carolina 4A first-round playoff appearance ...Three-star prospect according to *247Sports Composite* and *on3* ...Chose East Carolina over offers from Appalachian State, Georgia State, Liberty, Middle Tennessee State and Ohio ...Also starred on the North Mecklenburg basketball squad, leading the Vikings to a 27-5 record and state semifinal appearance his junior season.

Jeter

Listed as the No. 2 player on the Upstate Dandy Dozen list heading into senior season ...Named 5A Upper State Offensive Player of the Year ...Named finalist for South Carolina's Mr. Football recognizint the best player in the state ...Earned a spot on the South Carolina's Shrine Bowl of the Carolinas all-star roster ...As a junior, threw for 2,979 yards and 27 touchdowns in 2021...Led the Vikings to a region crown and an appearance in the Class AAAA Upper State Championship game ...Guided team to seven consecutive wins before falling to Gaffney in the state finals ...Completed sophomore campaign passing for 1,110 yards on 80 of 135 attempts with eight ariel scores over six games ..Rushed 50 times for another 341 yards and six touchdowns ...Registered a pair of 200-plus passing yard games with a season-best 331 in a 56-26 win over Wade Hampton ...Threw at least one scored in five of six contests (multiple twice) with three coming against Broome in a 40-33 victory ...Tallied at least one ground score in four games with a pair of TDs against James F. Byrnes and Wade Hampton ...Started prep career at Greer High School completing 69 of 152 passes for 734 yards and five touchdowns in seven games ...Passed for 200-plus yards on two occasions with a season-high 229 against Westside where he also had a then personal-best three touchdowns ..Rushed for an additional 52 yards on 26 carries ...Three-star prospect according to *247Sports Composite*, *ESPN* and *Rivals* ... Chose East Carolina over offers from Auburn, Georgia, Kentucky, Memphis, Missouri, Virginia Tech and West Virginia ...**Personal:** Son of Latresha Hughes.

Dwight Johnson Jr.
LB 6-1 210 Fr. **Hampton, Ga. (Dutchtown HS)**

Verbally committed to East Carolina on June 28th, 2022 ..**High School:** Member of Dutchtown team that posted a 12-2 overall record as a senior ...Earned preseason all-state honors ...As a junior he helped Dutchtown to the state playoffs ...Earned Region 4-AAAAA Defensive Player of the Year honors and first-team all-state accolades ..Finished the season with 132 tackles to go along with 21 TFLs, six sacks, one interception and four pass breakups ...As a freshman participated in the Seventh Annual Georgia Elite Classic ...Three-star prospect by *247Sports Composite*, *ESPN* and *Rivals* ...Chose East Carolina over offers from Georgia Tech, Kansas, Kansas State, Tulane, Vanderbilt and others ..**Personal:** Father Dwight played collegiately at Baylor (defensive end) and spent time in the National Football League with the Philadelphia Eagles (2000), New York Giants (2002) and New England Patriots (2003).

Malik Leverett
WR 6-3 200 Fr. **Evans, Ga. (Greenbrier HS)**

Verbally committed to East Carolina on June 26th, 2022 ..**High School:** Appeared in 38 career games for Greenbrier ...Caught 195 passes for 2,589 yards with 19 touchdowns ...Rushed for 150 yards on 41 carries with six scores and completed 8 of 10 passes for 215 yards and four touchdowns ..In all,

tallied 3,713 all-purpose yards (97.7 pg) with 26 touchdowns ...As a senior he caught 32 passes for 298 yards and one TD in seven games ...Returned seven kickoffs for 204 yards with one score (vs. Jenkins) ...Finished with 545 all-purpose yards ...Named GHSA 8-5A First-Team All-Region for the second consecutive year ...*Augusta Chronicle* honorable mention all-area selection ... Earned Atlanta Journal Constitution First-Team All-Regional accolades ... Slated to represent Team Georgia in Border Bowl X on January 7, 2023 against Team South Carolina ...Preseason all-state selection as a senior ...Finished junior campaign with 77 receptions for 1,326 yards and eight touchdowns ... Also ran for 136 yards scored six rushing TDs and was 4 of 4 passing for 94 yards and two additional scores ...Averaged 177.8 all-purpose yards per game ... Earned GHSA 8-5A All-Region First-Team honors and honorable mention all-state accolades after tallying 1,778 all-purpose yards and 14 total scores ...As a sophomore played in 11 games hauling down 63 passes for 663 yards with seven touchdowns ...Finished season with 972 all-purpose yards (11 rush, 663 receiving, 298 KOR) ...Opened prep career ranking second on the team with 23 receptions for 302 yards and three scores ...Added 117 kickoff return yards for a total of 418 all-purpose yards ...Completed two passes for 47 yards and a touchdown ...Member of the 2020 track team that ran in the 400 meters, 4x100 and 4x400 relays, while participating in the long jump ...Three-star prospect by *247Sports Composite, ESPN and Rivals* ...Chose East Carolina over offers from Colorado, Indiana, Kansas State, Maryland, Minnesota, Wake Forest and others.

Kamaurri

McKinley

DB \\\ 6-0 \\\ 174 \\\ Fr. \\\ Lakeland, Fla. (Lakeland HS)

Verbally committed to East Carolina on Dec. 19th, 2022 ...**High School:** Originally committed to Toledo before re-opening his recruitment ... Helped lead Lakeland to the 2022 Florida 4S state title and a 14-0 record ... The Dreadnaughts were tabbed No. 14 in the final *MaxPreps* Top 25 ... Racked up 78 total tackles, four tackles for loss, six interceptions and 15 pass breakups his junior and senior seasons ... Posted 51 tackles, 10 breakups and three interceptions while blocking four punts on the special team's unit ... Three-star prospect according to *247Sports Composite* and *on3* ... Also received offers from Illinois, Troy, South Florida, Tulane and others ... In addition to his efforts on the gridiron, he averaged 10.6 points per game and 5.6 rebounds per game as a junior to help pace Lakeland to a 21-4 record and state Elite 8 appearance.

Greg

Turner

SAF \\\ 6-2 \\\ 195 \\\ Fr. \\\ Ellenwood, Ga. (Cedar Grove HS)

Verbally committed to East Carolina on June 19th, 2022 ...**High School:** Played senior year at Cedar Grove helping the Saints to an 11-3 overall record as a senior and a spot in the 3A Georgia State Championship Game ...As a junior played at Hapeville Charter High School where he helped the Hornets to a 6-6 record in

2021 (3-2 in 4-A Region 6 play) ... Played at same high school as current Pirate Malik Fleming ... Three-star prospect by *247Sports Composite*, *ESPN* and *Rivals* ... Chose East Carolina over offers from Colorado, Indiana, Tulane and others.

Bryce

Weaver

OL \\\ 6-3 \\\ 315 \\\ Fr. \\\ Greenville, N.C. (DH Conley HS)

Verbally committed to East Carolina on June 25th, 2022 ... **High School:** Three-year starter on the offensive and defensive line for head coach Nate Conner ... Two-sport star for the Vikings (football and basketball) ... Appeared in 11 games for the Vikings his senior season ... Member of an offensive line unit that helped pave the way for 3,362 yards of total offense (2,018 pass, 1,344 rush) ... Helped open holes for two 100-yard rushing performances and 19 ground scores ... Defensively booked 42 stops (24 solo) with 4.0 TFLs and 10 quarterback hurries ... Registered multiple stops in all 11 games with a season-best six against New Bern ... Tallied a pair of TFLs against Cary and Northern Nash ... Credited with multiple QBHs in four games with a season best three against Northern Nash ... As a junior played in eight contests on the offensive line ... Helped the Vikings tally 3,647 total yards (2,548 pass, 1,099 rush) with 40 total TDs (15 rushing) ... Opened holes for a pair of 100-yard rushing performances and for a running back corps that averaged 99.9 yards per game on the ground ... Defensively, he tallied 26 tackles (19 solo) and was credited with one TFL ... Recorded at least one stop in all eight games (multiple seven times) ... Credited with six tackles on two occasions (J.H. Rose and Hillside) ... Lone TFL came in the season finale against Hillside ... Started all seven games at center during COVID-19 pandemic season as a sophomore ... Played for junior varsity team as a freshman before a late-season promotion to varsity ... Three-star prospect by *247Sports Composite* ... **Personal:** Brother D.J. played college basketball at N.C. Wesleyan and was a two-time team MVP ... Other brother Kam played one season of football at Chowan.